

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1719

BUILDING NAME: John A. Roach House

LOCATION: Putnam, Harford County, MD

BUILDING DATE: ca. 1910

DESCRIPTION: The John A. Roach House is a moderately sized, side-gable frame dwelling that grew by accretion over a number of decades. It is an undistinguished example of a not-uncommon architectural form for the dwellings of the middle and working class people in the early decades of the twentieth century. Neither the house nor the setting has integrity, as the dwelling lacks a substantial amount of interior original finishing materials and has had all of the windows replaced. Furthermore, the setting has been diminished by the construction of large concrete block buildings adjacent to the house. The blacksmith shop that was located on the property and operated by John Roach has not been extant for many decades.

SIGNIFICANCE: The John Roach House, highly modified throughout the last decades since its construction in 1910, has, in its present state, little historical association with the past, and minimal architectural interest. With the loss of the blacksmith shop and all outbuildings except the small corncrib, it has little association with the early twentieth century era of Harford County when blacksmith shops were an important part of the infrastructure and a common feature in the landscape in rural areas where draft horses were still widely utilized, primarily for agriculture.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Roach House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 2803 Charles St. N/A not for publication

city, town (near upper crossroads) Putnam x vicinity of congressional district 4th

state MD county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u> </u> district	<u> </u> public	<u> </u> occupied	<u> </u> agriculture	<u> </u> museum
<u>x</u> building(s)	<u>x</u> private	<u> </u> unoccupied	<u> </u> commercial	<u> </u> park
<u> </u> structure	<u> </u> both	<u> </u> work in progress	<u> </u> educational	<u>x</u> private residence
<u> </u> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<u> </u> entertainment	<u> </u> religious
<u> </u> object	<u> </u> in process	<u>x</u> yes: restricted	<u> </u> government	<u> </u> scientific
	<u> </u> being considered	<u> </u> yes: unrestricted	<u> </u> industrial	<u> </u> transportation
	<u>x</u> not applicable	<u> </u> no	<u> </u> military	<u> </u> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. & Mrs. James Montgomery

street & number 2803 Charles St. telephone no.:

city, town Fallston state and zip code MD 21047

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1928

street & number folio 57

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title N/A

date federal state county local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1719

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See continuation Sheet 7.1

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1719

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See Continuation Sheet 8.1

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. MA 1719

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of inventoried property 9.07 acresQuadrangle name JarrettsvilleQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting NorthingB

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Zone Easting NorthingC

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rita M. Suffness, Architectural Historianorganization MD SHAdate 7/11/00street & number 707 N. Calvert St.telephone 410-545-8561city or town Baltimorestate MD 21202

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
514-7600

**HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.1
DESCRIPTION**

Contributing Resources: 2

Non-contributing Resources: 4

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The John Roach House is located at the junction of Baldwin Mill Road (MD 165) and Charles Street in rural Harford County, near the west fork of Winters Run where it crosses MD 165. This area is located between Upper Crossroads and Putnam. There are six structures on the property, with only two pre-dating the final quarter of the twentieth century—the heavily altered, ca. 1910, frame dwelling and a frame corncrib. The remaining four structures are a concrete block barns or storage facilities, and a small modern frame shed. The John Roach House is a small frame dwelling, though heavily modified, which is typical for the early decades of the twentieth century. The corncrib likely dates to the same time as the house.

DESCRIPTION

The John Roach House is located north of Upper Crossroads in rural Harford County. The dwelling is a modestly sized structure located on a nine-acre remnant of portions of large land grants known as Salisbury, Improvement and Ogg, King of Basham. These were, for the most part, included in the 190 acres purchased by Tudor Chocke (Chorke, Chalk) in 1813 for 5 shillings, including the additional parcels of Weatherill's Last Addition, Bells Luck and Robert's Enlargement. It is probable that the Roach property, along with the Robert Amos House, (HA-1718) on the other side of the West Branch of Winters Run, were on a portion of Salisbury, immediately adjacent to Ogg, King of Basham, small parts of which were purchased by William Amos in 1879 (Land Record BBN1, F192) for 5 pounds, and Corbin Amos in 1836 for \$55.

The six structures located on the property are aligned in a row along the north side of Charles Street. The dwelling (1) is located to the east, closest to MD 165, with the shed, three concrete block structures, then a small frame corncrib on the far west. The two contributing resources on the property are the dwelling and one corncrib (6), likely dating to the early decades of the twentieth century. The dwelling likely replaced one attributed to Mrs. M. Chalk on the 1878 Martenet's map. There was another dwelling likely located adjacent to the property, well to the west along Charles Street. Though probably not included in the sale to Roach, he nonetheless may have occupied it as a tenant while he operated his blacksmith shop before building the existing small house. The current structure and the corncrib were likely constructed by Roach within fifteen years of his purchase of the property in 1897 (Land Record 92/315). That the same nine acres had sold eleven years earlier for triple the amount that Roach purchased it for leads to the conclusion that the Chalk house had been destroyed by the time Roach bought it. Roach operated a blacksmith shop, around the corner from the house, on MD 165, immediately adjacent to the roadway, during his tenure on the property from 1897 to 1937. Long time residents Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Aquilla Green report that they remember visiting the shop in the 1920's and 1930's.

The frame structure is clad with asbestos shingles, has a composite shingle roof, and is built into a slight incline, ascending the rise on the north. It is oriented to the south, facing the West Branch of Winters Run. The side-gable roof is extended to the rear to shelter a two-room outshut, and a cross gable surmounts the centered entrance on the south, or entrance, facade. There are cornerboards at the southeast and southwest corners. The dwelling assumed its present form as the result of construction occurring over many decades. Because of the radical renovation of the structure and lack of access it was not possible to visually inspect the interior of

**HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY**

**CONTINUATION SHEET 7.2
DESCRIPTION**

the structure or all of the exterior. Although it has been heavily altered, with a substantial loss of original finishing materials, and the windows have all been replaced with vinyl sash, the owner reports that during the renovation there was evidence that confirmed the building sequence; a small, two-over-two room dwelling, from the first decade of the twentieth century, that was expanded to the rear and to the west later in the century.

The original house was a two-room, one and one-half story, side-gable dwelling with chimneys, accommodating wood stoves, centered in the two end walls. Only one chimney is extant—located on the outside of the west end wall. This core is supported on a fieldstone foundation. During the period of the Edwards ownership (in the 1940's and 1950's) the structure was extended to the north with a full-width, two room, shed-roofed addition, supported on a concrete slab. A full width porch extended across the south entrance façade, supported on concrete block corner plinths. The porch is reached by means of five wood steps. Because it is built into a slight rise on the rear (north), the south facade is above-grade with a portion of the basement exposed in those sections under the porch where it is not obscured by a lattice wood skirt.

The south entrance façade is three bays in width, with two sash windows (one-over-one lights) on either side of the centered doorway, surmounted by very small windows at the second level, the tops of which abut the cornice bed mold of the overhanging soffit. The window in the center over the doorway, on the other hand, is identical to those in the first floor, extending almost the full height of the cross gable. The full width porch has been screened above a short wall clad by vertical wood siding.

The east elevation, composed of the east face of the original structure and of the rear extension, is punctuated by four openings—a window at the attic level centered in the gable end, a very small window below it in the main part, and a doorway and a window in the rear extension. The fenestration of the west side is much more regular, with one-over-one lights at the first level of either side of the brick chimney with smaller versions just above them. This elevation is the location of a kitchen wing, extending the rear wing to the west. This kitchen addition has a shallow side-gable roof, with a window in the west elevation and an entrance in the south face.

On a rise to the west of the dwelling is a small, recently installed shed (2), gable-roofed with a hopper window in the south elevation and entrance in the west-facing gable end. The three large, rectangle-shaped concrete block buildings are located between the shed (and house) on the east and the corncrib on the far east end of the array of buildings. The first (3) is a large garage, constructed of block and vinyl-sided frame, with two large garage bays opening on the south-facing gable end. The gambrel-roofed barn-like structure (4) also has the gable end oriented to south and Charles Street. The roof is clad with standing seam metal, and an entrance is located in the south bay of the long, east side wall. The next structure (5) to the west is almost identical, but has its long side to the roadway rather than the gable end. A hay door is at the second level in the east-facing gable end above large barn doors.

A very small (6) corncrib is located at the west end of this line of buildings. The side-gable structure has its long dimension parallel to Charles Street on the south, with an entrance in the east gable end.

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JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY

DESCRIPTION
CONTINUATION SHEET 7.3

CHAIN OF TITLE

Ann Montgomery	to	James Montgomery and wife	2/25/1993
		\$125,000	1928/57
Wlm. Durdin and wife	to	Earl and Ann Montgomery	6/3/1977
			1032/305
Wayne Edwards and wife	to	Wlm. Durdin	6/8/1963
			607/447
2 Lots			
1) Virginia Coe	to	Wayne Edwards	12/1/1949
		Salisbury, 9 acres	337/28
2) Elva Bachman	to	Wayne Edwards	7/30/1943
and husband		30.9 acres	278/375
daughter of John A. Roach			
John A. Roach	to	Elva Bachman	Will Record
died 11/27/37		Elva Bachman, Administrator	File 10,462
			AJG23/420
Ella Harrison	to	John A. Roach	12/4/1897
and husband		\$300	92/315
Georgina Chalk (Biles)	to	Ella Harrison	12/16/1886
		\$900 9 acres	56/139
George Chalk	to	Georgiana Chalk	2/16/1878
and wife, et. al.			36/348
Heirs of Mason Chalk (where he resides)			
Isaac Stansburg	to	Mason Chalk	5/29/1841
		and George Chalk	25/65

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PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.1

SGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The John Roach House, highly modified throughout the last decades since its construction in 1910, has, in its present state, little historical association with the past, and minimal architectural interest. With the loss of the blacksmith shop and all outbuildings except the small corncrib, it has little association with the early twentieth century era of Harford County when blacksmith shops were an important part of the infrastructure and a common feature in the landscape in rural areas where draft horses were still widely utilized, primarily for agriculture.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John A. Roach House has been analyzed as an adjunct to the blacksmith operation, operated by its owner early in the twentieth century, and generally within the context of the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930), and the *Modern Era* (1930-Present) within Harford County. It has also been analyzed for its architecture. The area in which the site is located is known as Putnam, which is west of Bel Air, the county seat of Harford County. This area, like other areas in the hinterland of Bel Air, was settled in the 18th century. Harford County was officially established in 1773, by which time the center of population had shifted to the interior, thus occasioning the moving of the county seat to Bel Air by 1782 where a courthouse and jail were constructed by 1791

Commercial and industrial growth in Harford County began in the 18th century. The establishment of early industries was aided by the abundance of natural resources and exploitable waterpower along the Fall Line. By 1730, soil exhaustion had initiated the gradual replacement of tobacco by wheat cultivation, encouraging the milling industry. A gristmill, a sawmill and tannery were in operation along Bynums Run before 1773. Further commercial and industrial growth characterized the *Agricultural-Industrial Transition Period* (1815 to 1870). Development of the lumber industry led to the establishment of sawmills on most of the county's steams in the early nineteenth century. The establishment of a mill operated by Robert Amos (see HA-1718) on an adjacent may have established the crossroads as the location of services for the local population, optimum for the establishment of a blacksmith shop by John Roach.

The economy of Baltimore dominated the region during the *Industrial/Urban Dominance Period* (1870-1930), retarding additional large-scale industrial development in the county. Although new industries were established, including flint mining and vegetable canning, industrialization in urban areas far outpaced Harford County's development. During the *Modern Period* (1930-Present) Harford County underwent rapid development as population in the Baltimore region has increased and agricultural land is today being rapidly replaced by suburban housing development.

HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
CONTINUATION SHEET 8.2

The John Roach House has been analyzed under applicable criteria of the National Register of Historic Places. It does not meet the requirements of Criterion A (association with a significant event); Criterion B (association with a significant person); and Criterion C (the work of a master or architectural merit). It has no known significance association with an historical event, an historical person, and is an undistinguished example of a small house type, thus it would not meet the requirements of Criterion C. Without archeological investigations it is uncertain whether there is any information potential, but given its late construction date it is unlikely that it would meet the requirements of Criterion D for any resources possibly located within the limits of construction impact for the bridge replacement project.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW	
Eligibility recommended <u> </u>	Eligibility not recommended <u>X</u>
Criteria: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u>X</u> C <u> </u> D Considerations: <u> </u> A <u> </u> B <u> </u> C <u> </u> D <u> </u> E <u> </u> F <u> </u> G <u> </u> None	
Comments: _____	
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>8/17/00</u>
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	Date

Reviewer, NR Program	Date
<u><i>[Signature]</i></u>	<u>8/23/00</u>
_____	_____

[Handwritten mark]

HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

GEOGRAPHIC ORGANIZATION: Piedmont

CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIOD (s):
Industrial-Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
Modern - 1930 to Present

PREHISTORIC/HISTORIC PERIOD THEME (s): Architecture

RESOURCE TYPE

CATEGORY: Buildings

HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: Rural

HISTORIC FUNCTION AND USE: Domestic/Single Dwelling/Residence
Domestic/Outbuilding/Corncrib
Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuildings/Barns (Non-C)
Subsistence/Agricultural Outbuildings/Shed (Non-C)

KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: None

HA-1719
JOHN H. ROACH HOUSE
PUTNAM, MARYLAND

BIBLIOGRAPHY
CONTINUATION SHEET 9.1

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Suffness, Rita M. Personal Communication with Mr. and Mr. Jacob Aquilla Green (11-19-1999), Mr. and Mrs. Howard Popp, Jr. (8-10-1999), Mrs. Julie Montgomery (8-10-1999), and research staff of the Harford County Historical Society (various dates).

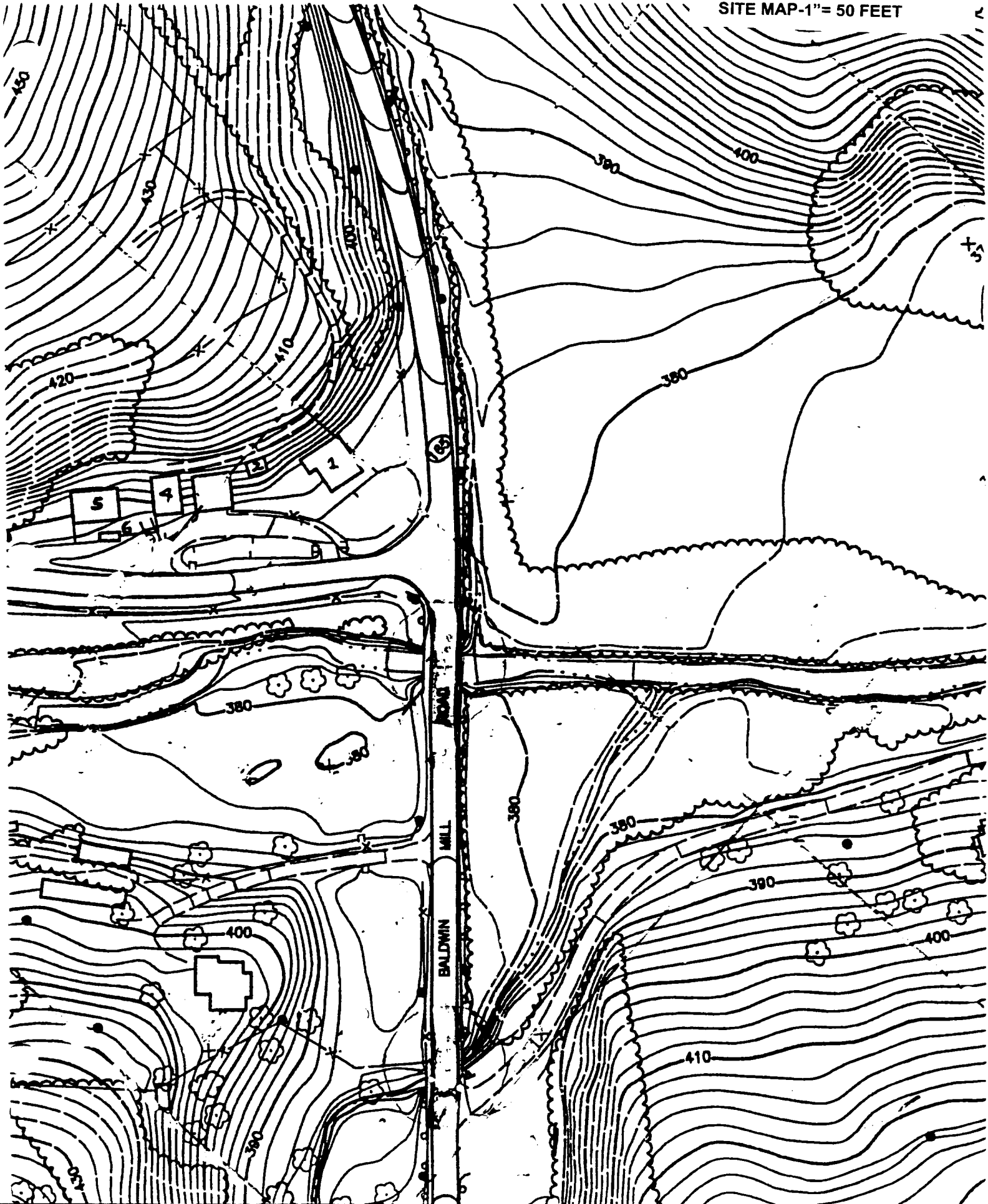
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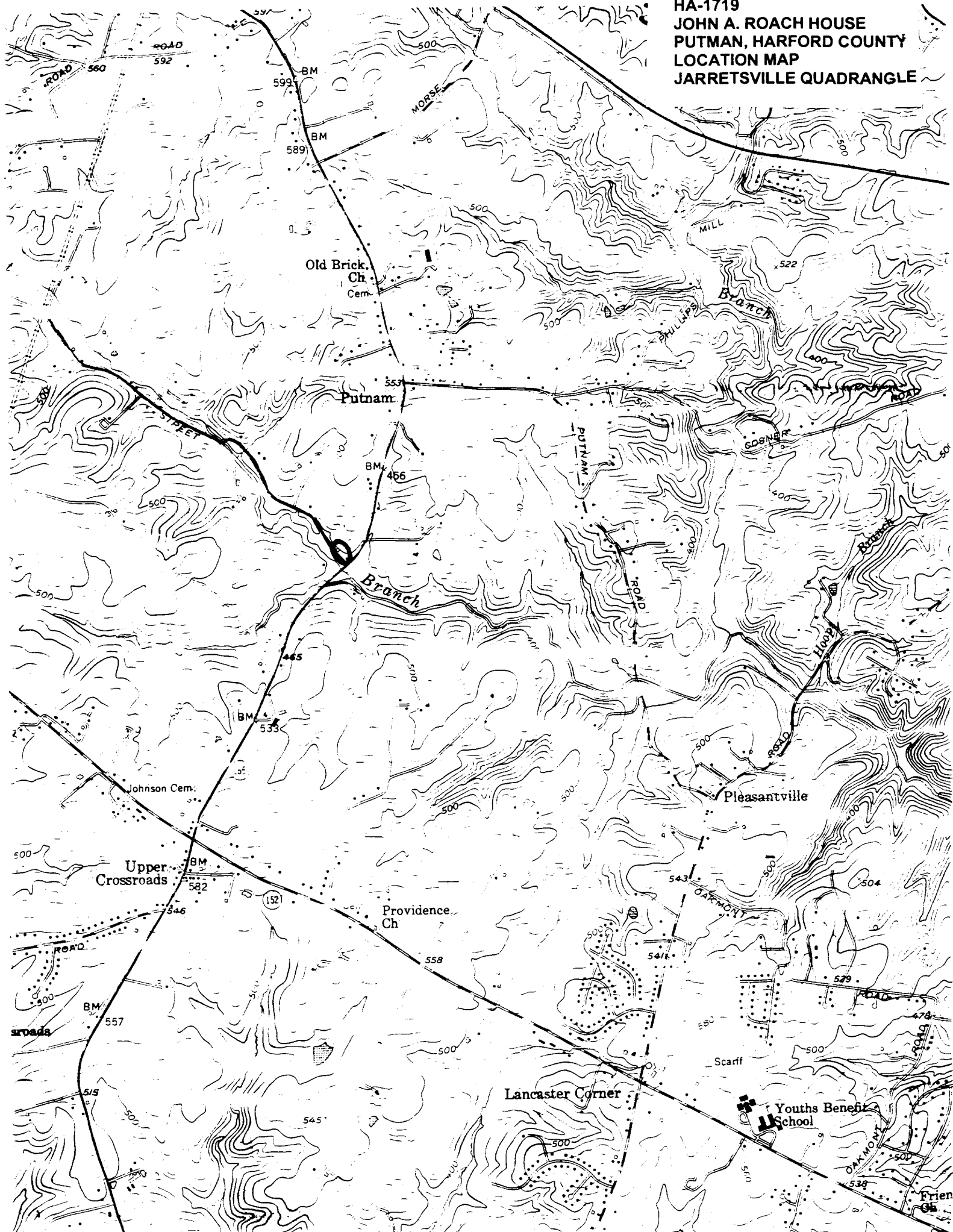
**JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY
LOCATION MAP
MARTENET'S MAP OF
HARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND**



HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTMAN, HARFORD COUNTY
SITE MAP-1"= 50 FEET



HA-1719
JOHN A. ROACH HOUSE
PUTNAM, HARFORD COUNTY
LOCATION MAP
JARRETSVILLE QUADRANGLE





HA-1719
John A Roach House

Putnam, Harford County

R Suffern 811.199
keys at MD SHPC

Bldg 1

Dwelling

Sw corner

1/5



HA 1919

John A Roach House

Putnam, Hartford Cty MD

R Suffern 8/10/95

negs at MD SAPU

Bldg 1

Dwelling

SE Corner

2/3



HA 1719

John A Roach House

Putnam, Hartford County

2 Saffron 8-10-99

negs at MDSHPC

Buildings 3, 4, 5, 6

Concrete Block and

frame out buildings

Looking west

3/5



H A 1719

John A Roach House
Putnam, Hartford Ct

R Suffern 8-16-99
MD SHPD

Dwelling

South (principle) elevation

4/5



HA 1719

John A Roach House
Putnam, Hartford Ct

12 Sufferen 8-10-99
negs at MD SH PC

Bldg 2
Frame Shed
South Elevation

5/5